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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Office of the Secretary, FCC
Washington, DC 20554

Before the
Federal communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of:

Amendment of the Amateur Service Rules to include Novice
Class Operator License Examinations in the Volunteer-Examiner
Coordinator Examination System

PR Docket No. 92-154

My comments are as follows:

Governmental efficiency must not be the prime consideration.
The prime purpose of government is to serve its citizens. It
must do so even though a particular program might not be as
cost effective as some might think.

There should not be a fee for the Novice examination. Many
Novice applicants are school students who cannot afford a fee
in order to enter the Amateur Service. Getting young persons
to enter the Amateur Service should be a prime concern of
those administering the program. "Your old men shall dream
dreams, your young men shall see visions." Joel, 2:28.
Unless the older Radio Amateurs dream dreams, the younger
Amateurs, who are today's Novices, will rarely see visions.
The venerable company at the "wailing wall" who so loudly
decry the "lack of idealism in today's Novices" largely
condemn themselves. They have failed to leave behind any
great legacy of unfilled dreams. For unless the older
Amateurs pass on the disturbance of high dreams, today's
Novices will find it difficult to discover an atmosphere in
which seeing visions is natural.

My own personal experiences may help elucidate some problems.
I was first licensed in 1954. I let my license lapse around
1963. I became an Advanced Class Amateur in 1990. Shortly
after that, I tried to start a class in the Mustang, OK area.
It is in the Southeast corner of Canadian county. I could
not find another Amateur nearby. The closest one lived 10
miles away in Yukon, OK. The test site operated by W5YI is
30 miles away and operates only once a month. I am a VE for
both W5YI and ARRL but have not been able to exercise this
privilege. There are none nearby and the one operated by

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W5YI does not use Advanced Class Amateurs. Requiring 3 VEs to administer the examination would make it practically impossible for me to find enough VEs to conduct a training program and exam sessions. I was a Volunteer Examiner in the mid-fifties and had no problem then. I cannot understand that there would be such a ruckus over today's Novice examination program. There should be better training of Novice VEs. They seem to be left on their own.

I am not actively trying to train Novices just now. I found that the current Novice examination questions are unreadable. I made a check on the first eight questions in the Novice question pool. There were two which needed fifth year college reading skills, one needed sixth year and the other five needed PHD reading skills. I wrote to the VECs and told them about it. They say they are making the upcoming Novice question pool to be at the Junior High School reading level. The FCC Rules are about third year college reading level. If there is to be any effort about the examinations, it should be directed toward making the test questions readable to those in the target audience. The subject of radio is not that hard to learn. The problem is that technical people cannot resist the mischief of making what they have to say more complex in the telling.

My experiences include being an Amateur Operator for about 9 years beginning in 1954. I taught Electronics Engineering at the Federal Aviation Administration Academy in Oklahoma City, OK 13 years. Systems I taught were Radar, Microwave Link and computers. I have been trained to write test questions for electronics. I have written about 1,000 questions. I hold three U. S. patents on electronic equipment. Claims total 58. That means that I have invented 58 electronic circuits which are new, useful and nonobvious. New means they did not exist before. Useful means that they work as intended. Nonobvious means that they are not obvious to someone skilled in electronics.

Again, I strongly urge you to not adopt the VECs' recommendations. It would make it very difficult for persons living in even slightly remote areas to find enough VEs to be examined for Novice Class Amateur license.

Sincerely,

William L. Enter, Sr.

William L. Enter, Sr. KB5NUA